

July 1988

*Field Naturalists
Club of Ballarat*

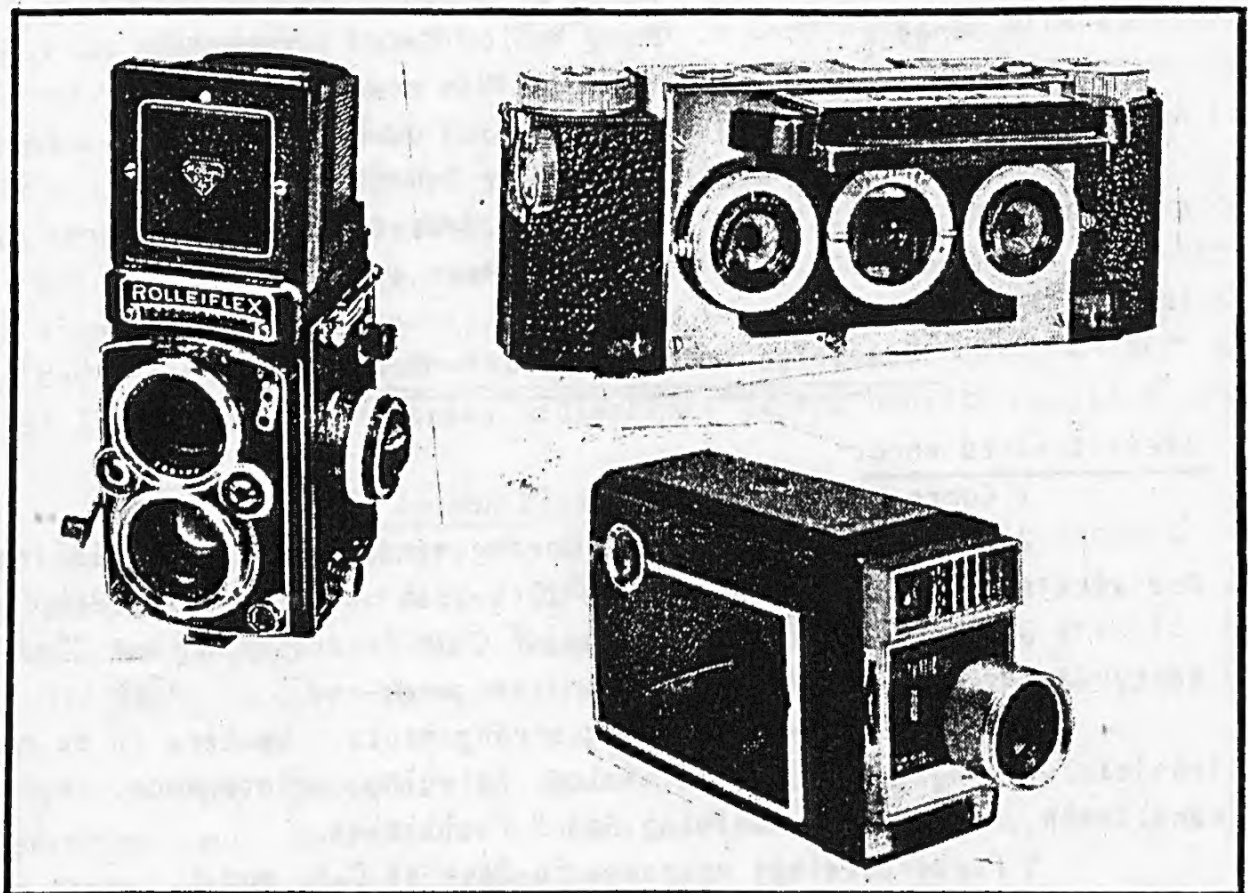
EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting July 1st. Films and/or video

Meeting Aug.5th. 'Insects and Spiders' Mr. R.Allen.

Excursion July 3rd. Smythesdale P.Murphy, H.Burgess.

Excursion Aug. 7th. Lake Wendouree.



President: Dr F. HARRAP Phone 301651
Vice-pres: Mr W. MURPHY Phone 323289
Secretary: Miss H. BURGESS Phone 312210
Treasurer: Mrs F. WILLIAMSON Phone 327631
Editor: Mrs P. MURPHY Phone 323289

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydiard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY*

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday July 27th. Committee meeting. 8p.m. at 1112, Ligar St.

Field reports - June Meeting

- K.McDonnell - at Lake St. George, Creswick, Musk Duck and pair of Little Grebes, 20 - 30 Cattle Egrets at Warrenheip.
- J.Spicer. - 12 Red Wattlebirds in group at Redan, Cattle Egrets at Burrumbeet.
- M.Rotherham - a number of Honey Eater species at Clunes State Forest block.
- F.Williamson - Water rats active in S.W. section of L.Wendouree
- H.Hooper. - Flock of Sulphur Crested Cockatoos at Brown Hill
- H.Burgess - Many Yellow Faced Honeyeaters at N.Ballarat, the first observed for some time.
- L.Fink - 200-300 Wood Duck at Meredith, a Cattle Egret with leg band at Sebastopol.
- M.Tonkin - a pair of Hooded Plovers and Egret at Anglesea.
- F.Harrap - Cattle Egrets at Mt.Helen.

Committte Meeting Report - May 25th.

Items treated were:

- 1 Correspondence.
- 2 Anchor plant Project - arrangements in hand for fencing of Creswick and Lal Lal sites on June 11th-13th and June 17th-18th (vide report)
- 3 Need for reconsideration of Club Excursion on Dec 22nd noted Warby Ranges Camp-out scheduled for same week-end. *Oct*
- 4 August camp-out hosting arrangements - members to be requested to join working groups of own choice; catering, maintenance, registration and Admin., excursions, setting up of facilities.
- 5 Furze Strategy response to Dept of C.F. and L.
- 6 Mining Act Review response.
- 7 Back numbers of Club Newsletter assembled by H.Burgess for placement in Regional Library.

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District Waterfalls - June Excursion

When seven cars set out in convoy into a damp cloudy morning on June 5th. those on board had little thought for the watery adventure that lay ahead! All, however, were well equipped and the variety of watery trials experienced during the day were enthusiastically overcome.

The excursion encompassed the waterfalls and sites of former waterfalls in the Wombat Forest precincts, North-East of Ballarat.

The Great Dividing Range was crossed, in heavy cloud cover, at Mollongghip and the first sites explored were at Sailors Falls and the old quarry on a Sailors Creek tributary at Musk Vale. Travelling via Leonards Hill and the central Wombat Forest block, a visit to the Stewart Creek Experimental Area, and on through Bullarto South, the convoy arrived at Newbury and on to Trentham. Some unintentional detours on this stretch gave members new insights to this beautiful section of the forest.

Pavilions at the Trentham Sports Ground provided much needed shelter during a rather wet lunchtime stop. Undaunted, the group Trentham Falls at the beginning of the afternoon session. The rain of the previous week, and that day, ensured quite spectacular flows at all the falls visited.

An interesting drive through Littlehampton, the northern forest block and Glenlyon brought the group to Loddon Falls. Although surrounded by open country these falls proved to be quite an impressive sight, in a reserve that deserves further exploration. The homeward ^{trail} was via Kangaroo Creek - site of former falls - Coomoora and Daylesford.

It was agreed that the damp conditions had not detracted from the enjoyment of the day, and also that the route would provide a worthwhile excursion for more general studies, in finer weather! The falls' sites provided excellent observations of geological formations and examples of the land forms of the area, sedimentary layers beneath basalt flows.

Anchor Plant Project

The second stage of the Club's Bicentennial Project has been implemented, in the fencing of the two selected sites. On the week-end of June 11th-13th an ATCV team, under David Clarke, erected the fence in difficult, stony terrain, around the site at Suizort on the Creswick Creek.

We are grateful to Bruce and Kim Dolling of Suizort for their cooperation and assistance in this part of the project. The Lal Lal plants were fenced in on June 17th-18th by a team led by Heidi.

Seedlings and cuttings are progressing well. The next stage will be the clearing of the noxious weeds and general preparation of the fenced sites. Club members will be required to assist in this aspect of the project. Further details will be provided at a later date.

Helen Burgess Trip to Antarctica.

Seven Australians joined American and German naturalists/ tourists at Puerto Williams on the Island of Navarin for a ten day cruise on board the "World Discoverer" to the island off the Antarctic Peninsula.

To get there we flew to Tahiti for some birding, then a very short stop at Easter Island then to Santiago. We had a short time on our return for a tour of Easter Island to see the statues.

Two nights at Santiago enabled us to have a full day birding at the foot of the Andes. Flying via Concepcion, where we saw Black Necked Swans, to the southern most city, Puento Arenas, we were then shuttled by plane to Puerto Williams where we saw Atlantic Beeches, Burrs and one of the Heaths with red berries, also Darwin's Bread, a Fungi peculiar to the Beech Trees, and Devils Strawberries. Because of the short runway two trips were necessary.

Navarin Island is south of the Beagle Channel

An unbelievably calm crossing of Drake passage saw most passengers on deck. Icebergs greeted us near the Antarctic Convergence and in falling snow the Captain circumnavigated the first large berg we saw.

Our cruise took us to King George Island, Arktowski Polish Base, where we saw an old whaling station, Adele Penguins, Chinstrap and Gentoo Penguins, these birds build nests of rocks and pebbles, they breed with the same mate, the males usually find the nest site and build the nest.

The Penguins watch out for the Skua Gulls who are nest robbers, the hills are windswept with Lichens and Algæ making up the plants.

The Adele are friendly, the Chinstrap surly and the Gentoo is ashy bird, we also saw a Crabeater Seal and Kelp Gulls sitting on the rocky outcrops.

The Islands are Basalt.

We visited Half Moon Island and Deception Island, Exercises were the order of the day to keep fit and at Pendulum Bay we swam in the Hot Springs.

cont.

At Telegraph Bay is the Crater of the last Volcano, then to Vidella, the abandoned Chilean Base, with beautiful Paradise Bay and an opportunity for setting foot on the Mainland, then through the Gerlache Strait and Neumeyer Channel to the abandoned British Port Lockroy, the Blue Eyed Shags were nesting, among the rocks were Brush tailed Penguins, We enjoyed a barbeque on board, with ice closing in we were "zodiaced" at 65oS with a view of the distant Lemaire Channel which was to be our outhernmost Point.

Too much ice to cruise the channel so our return took us to Cuverville, then to Tiente Marsh the Chilean and Bellinghausen the Russian bases on King George Island.

Our last call was to se an estimated 60,000 nesting pairs of Chinstrap Penguins on Nelson Island at harmony Bay

The rougher (6ft) waves of Drake Passage brought out more Albatross than we had seen on our journey South

Also seen were Killer Whales at Winke Island, Sheath bills which are the only bird in Antarctica without webbed feet, A Leopard Seal, which feeds on Penguins, fur Seals, with little ears, Wandering Albatross, Black Browed Albatross and Macaroni Penguins.

This was one of our most intersting evenings and our thanks go to Helen for sharing her trip with us.

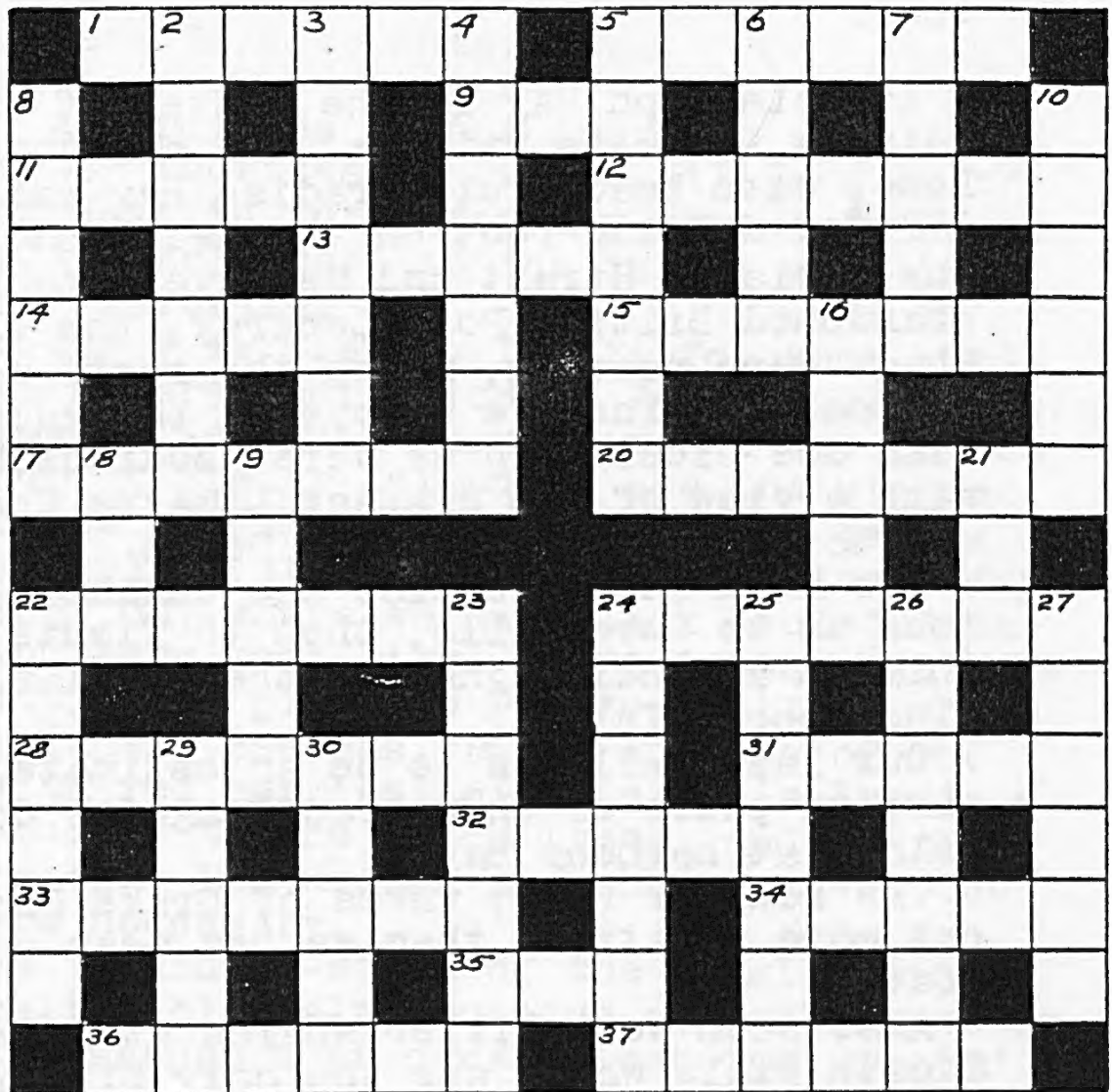
L.F.

Australian Banded Bird Recoveries.

Some of the longest recorded movements are notable. (distance shown in Kms) Sharp Tailed Sandpiper Recovered in Siberia) 10,994; Cattle Egret (N.S.W. to N.Z.) 2,500; Sacred Kingfisher 2,639; Little Pied Cormorant 2,900; Great (Large) Egret 3,348; Sacred Ibis 3,138; Straw-necked Ibis 3,122; Grey Teal 3,187; Stubble Quail 1,275; Black Duck 1,891; Galah 476.

Time elapsed since banding (Yrs-Mths) Australian Magpie 23-9 Grey Teal 21-7 Black Duck 14-11; (The shooters missed out with these two!) Sacred Ibis 18-11; Pied Cormorant 18-6; Black Swan 18-4; Straw-necked Ibis 15-2; Australian Raven 12-6; Great Cormorant 12-3; Little Black Cormorant 5-8 and, last but not least, another escapee from the dining table, a Stubble Quail who managed 9-4!

NATURAL HISTORY CROSSWORD

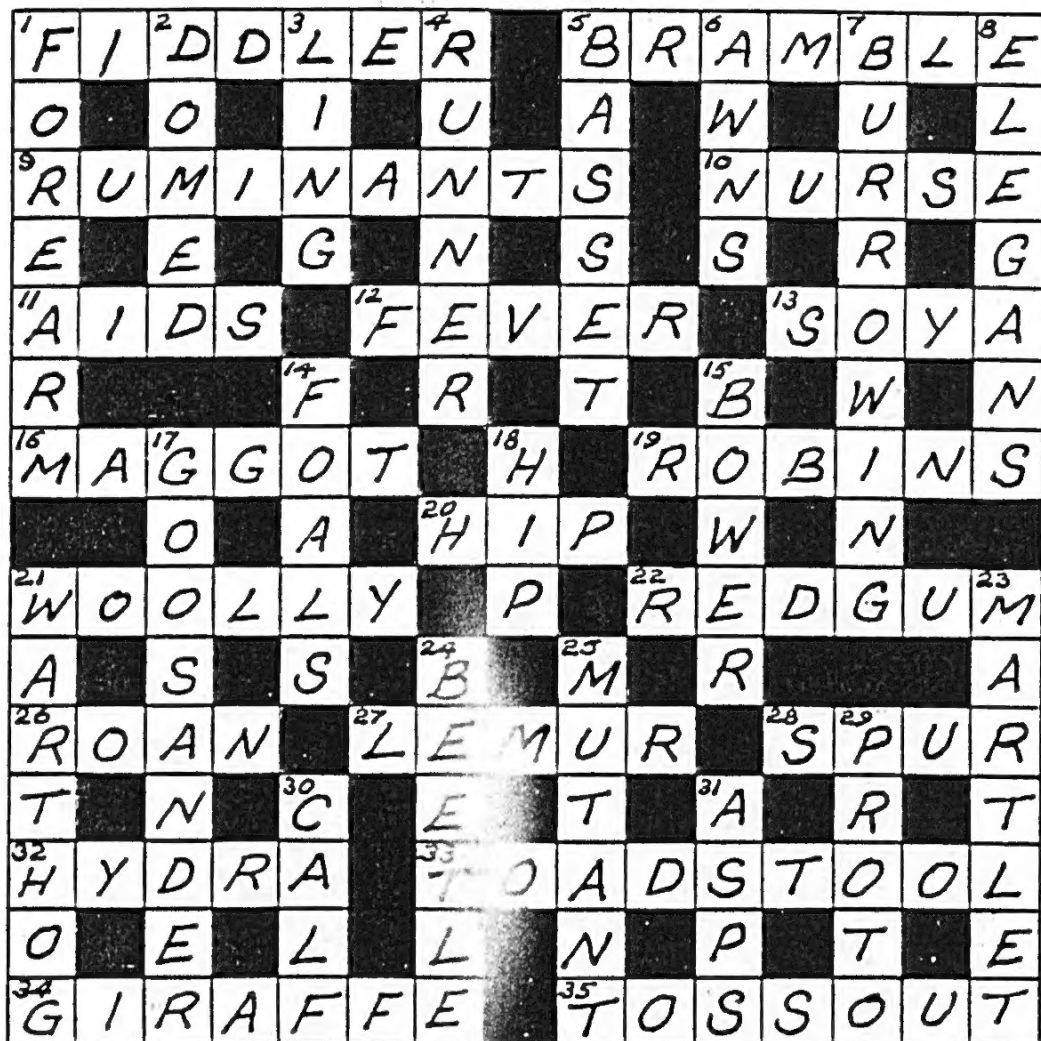


ACROSS

1 Wild ass (6) 5 Do fish learn in this? (6) 9 Social insect (3) 11 Ferocious animal (5) 12 Tailed --- butterfly, --- Gum Moth. (7) 13 Month (5) 14 The Jackdaw of Rheims was one (5) 15 Female of cat family 17 Feline orb -- particularly useful at night! (4,3) 20 They help in our National Parks and Reserves. (7) 22 Large billed bird (7) 24 Conservation is a matter of sensible ---- (7) 28 Canine as porter or in a group? (4,3) 31 Bilateral = two --- (5) 32 Bird of the golden egg? (5) 33 Dog perhaps, prior to becoming a working dog (7) 34 Type of nut (5) 35 Prefix three (3) 36 Wading birds (6) 37 Bank well known for commercial fishing (6)

DOWN

2 This for the mill after a harvest failure! (2,5) 3 Long necked animal (7) 4 Rodent event which humans do not wish to join (3,4) 5 Pertaining to stars (7) 6 Short animal? Well, yes and no (5) 7 Some people like their salads etc. thus (particularly in U,S,A,) (2,3) 8 Natural radio interference (6) 10 Some birds have them (6) 16 --- heron (5) 18 Simian (3) 19 Type of lizard (5) 21 see 6 down (3) 22 Richard's --- (Groundlark) (5) 23 Lumps of gold (7) Artery in neck (7) 25 Nasal ornament used by some primitive tribes (4-3) 26 Part of plant embryo producing primary root (7) 27 Moulting birds are -- feathers (6) 29 Bird found at building sites? (5) 30 Native dog (5)



The Australian Bird Banding Scheme

The scheme began in 1953 under the auspices of the C.S.I.R.O. but was transferred to the Aust. National Parks and Wildlife Service on Jan. 1st. 1985. Its aim is to acquire information about the habits and movements of birds both for its scientific value and for the effective conservation, management and control of native birds, game birds and those which may be classed as pets. You can play your part if you come across a banded bird. If alive the bird should be released after you have taken down the full number and address shown on the band. In the case of the bird being dead the band should be removed, flattened and returned to either the C.S.I.R.O. or A.N.P.W.S. in Canberra with a covering letter containing the following information:-

- 1 Your name and address (You will then receive details of the bird's banding)
- 2 The full number and address shown on the band.
- 3 The location of your find. 4 The date of your find 5 If possible the cause of death and estimate of the time since its death.

Every little piece of information is of value to our wildlife services.

(Did you see P 5?)

Botanical Notes :-

FAMILY EPACRIDACEAE

This family contains genera that are found in areas similar to those where heath grows in the northern hemisphere (i.e. Family Ericaceae).

Members of this family are usually shrubs or rarely small trees.

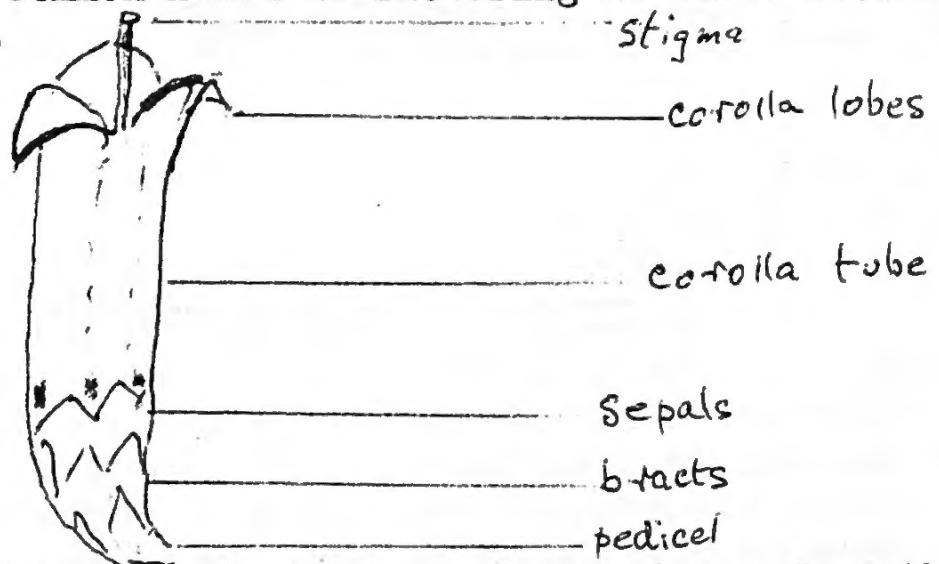
The flowers have petals that are usually united into a corolla, often tubular (sympetalous).

A well known member of the family is Epacris impressa (Common Heath), the floral emblem of Victoria.

Jean Galbraith describes species from about 21 genera found in S.E. Australia.

In the 4th Edition of Black's Flora of South Australia members of 9 genera are included.

Around Ballarat there are species from 7 genera. At Enfield Common Heath is flowering at least from June to January.



There are 5 stamens, often arising from the petals. The ovary is superior, has 1 - 10 cells and in each cell there are usually several ovules

H.H.

Terminal Trivia

- 1 The largest Australian butterfly is the Cape York Birdwing (Ornithoptera priamus pronomus)
- 2 A millipede does not necessarily have more legs than a centipede. A millipede has two pairs of legs to each body segment whereas a centipede has only one pair.